

June 11, 2020  
Middlesex Municipal Building

The meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held remotely on the above date and called to order by Chairman Jason Bond.

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on June 4, 2020.

Members:                Jason Bond  
                              Dan Gitler  
                              Sean Johnson  
                              Jim Gorman  
                              Jeff Killian  
                              Doug Rex, Representative

Secretary                Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public.

Kimberly Sanka-Egusquiza, 861 Voorhees Avenue attended and was concerned about the tree that has roots growing under her fence and breaking the fence and questioned her options. She feels that her family property is being exposed to animals and also she has a fence on her property. About 18 months ago she reached out to the former mayor and he indicated that he would take care of this removal. Mr. Bond suggested that she talk to the vendor of the fence to look into ways of removing the fence from the post and building it out temporarily or take out the fence near the trunk. Mr. Bond did not feel that at this tree is unhealthy and should be removed, that she just needed to modify the fence. (After the meeting, a review of the property survey on file was done and it was determined that the tree was on the borough right of way and the fence was outside the property line).

Seeing that there was no further public participation, Chairman Bond closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to approve the May 21, 2020 Shade Tree Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Bond moved to approve the May, 2020 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

#### Communications

1. 436 High Street – Commissioners looked at the 2 Norway maples and the three pine trees and felt that nothing was needed.

2. 801 Drake Avenue – Mr. Gorman reported that the large ash tree needs to be removed as it is dead.
3. 313 First Street – Mr. Bond will look at the tree in front of this property that resident reported dead.
4. 443 Runyon Avenue – Commission determined that nothing was needed on this large silver maple.
5. 5 Dunlap Place – Mr. Bond will look at this tree that resident is requesting be pruned.
6. 308 Lucia Ave. – This declining emerald ash tree is removal – commission authorized a replacement.
7. 409 Beechwood Avenue – This maple needs to be pruned by DPW or Predator and elevated 12 feet over the roadway. (DPW will handle)
8. 904 Hazelwood Avenue – The two maple trees on the Ambrose side of the property need to be elevated 10 feet over the roadway.
9. 120 Greene Avenue – Commission agreed to remove the silver maple that is dead on the corner of Mohawk.
10. 617 Hazelwood Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the large American Holly on the Salvatore side of this property to determine if the homeowner can remove this tree/bush.

#### Work Agenda

1. 421 Fulton Street – Mr. Bond will look at the sidewalk that was damaged by tree roots.
2. 350 Bound Brook Road – Commission determined that they will follow upon this Charlie Brown tree to determine if it is dead in the fall.
3. 317 Lorraine Avenue – Commission determined that the ash tree on the Woodland side of the property is dead and should be removed and replaced.
4. 131 Sherman Avenue – Commission determined that the tree leaning on the fence should be removed.
5. 339 Lorraine Avenue – Commission determined that the silver maple should have the dead wood removed.
6. 213 Beechwood Avenue – Commission determined that the two big sugar maples should have a dead wood prune and clear the wires.
7. 512 Chestnut Street – Commission determined that this tree should be pruned for \$400.
8. 202 Farragut Avenue – Commission determined that this tree is in good shape and nothing needs to be done.

#### Unfinished Business

1. 2020 Shade Tree Budget – Commission was advised that the 2020 Municipal Budget will be adopted at the June 23, 2020 Regular Meeting with a budget of \$35,000 for Shade Tree.

#### New Business

1. Award of Tree Pruning/Removal Contract – Predator Tree Service is scheduled to be awarded the bid for this Contract at the June 23, 2020 Regular Meeting. They came in as the lowest bidder out of three vendors.
2. Arbor Day Seedling Event – Raritan Avenue – Kudos were given to Mr. Bond and Mr. Killian for all the work that they put forth for this successful planting. Hopefully, these seedlings will prosper. Councilman Rex will post some pictures to Facebook of this event. A majority of the saplings were planted. Mr. Bond will follow up with Lenny and Borough Administrator regarding the animal protection and watering of the sapling. A contract has been sent to the Administrator for Mr. Bond's company to allow him to water these saplings this year for free.
3. Arbor Day Tree – (Courtyard – Mauger School) Commission would like to plant the Davidia Tree, and may also consider planting one at each school. Discussion on this planting was tabled until the September meeting.
4. Tree Plans for Jilly's – Commission determined that they were in favor of planting the cypress evergreens which were suggested in the plans, which would be able to provide a screen for the parking lot and also for the homeowners abutting the property. The Commission recommendation/opinion will be sent over to the JLUB.
5. More planting sites are needed.

Mr. Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
September 10, 2020 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238